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BOROUGH OF SALTASH.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health for 1943.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

I beg to submit my report for 1943. This as in the past six years is only an Interim Report, and details of statistics, and work in connection with the war is omitted.

A. STATISTICS.

Births. There were 127 live births, of which 2 were illegitimate, and 2 still births. The birth rate is 20.2 per 1,000 estimated civilian population, and that for England and Wales is 16.5. The still birth rate is 15.5 per 1,000 live and still births.

Deaths. There were 108 deaths corrected by inward and outward transfer. This number is rather more than a year ago. The death rate is 17.1 which compares unfavourably with 12.1 for England and Wales. Ten deaths were due to Cancer, and 28 to Heart disease. There were no deaths due to Road accidents.

There were 9 deaths of infants under 1 year, and this gives an infantile death rate per 1,000 live births of 70, similar rate for England and Wales is 49.

There was 1 maternal death after child birth, giving a rate of 7.7 per 1,000 live and still births.

Appended is a table shewing the age incidence and causes of death. These causes do not quite tally with the tables sent from the Registrar General.

It will be noticed that over 80% of deaths were of persons over 45

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

There has been a change during the year as Mr. F. J. Harris, the Borough Surveyor, retired at the age limit, and has been succeeded by Mr. S. C. Drabble, A.I.A.S, C.R.S.I. J.B., M.S.I.A., who commenced duties in November.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

This section and the two following embody the report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Sewerage:- The disposal works at Forder are allowing a certain amount of pollution to take place, but the Salt Mill works are rather better.

House Refuse:- Notwithstanding shortage of labour collection is maintained. The Tip is not satisfactory, and controlled tipping is precluded by the terms of the existing agreement with the owners of the land. Rats cause a good deal of nuisance in the vicinity of the Tip.

Camping Sites:- As before.

Sea Water Bath:- As before.

Water Supply:- Arrangements have now been completed with the S.E. Cornwall Water Board, and a supply can be obtained from there if occasion should arise.

Inspections:- There has been a decrease in the number of Inspections made due to a break of two months between the retirement of Mr. Harris and Mr. Drabble's appointment. The number of inspections made in connection with drainage and dairies was 94.

D. HOUSING.

There is a shortage of housing accommodation and there have been some cases of overcrowding; one serious case has been relieved by Council action, and two other cases larger accommodation has been secured; but other cases still exist. The Council plans 29 houses in the first year of Post-War building, and has in view the acquisition of 14 acres of land which would enable a considerable number of houses to be erected in the future years.

Some of the houses adjacent to blitzed areas are of a poor and squalid type, and it is hoped that in future development these may be dealt with by clearance. It is to be hoped that in future building care will be taken to avoid dampness by care in design; this will be a great help in preventing rheumatism etc., and in promoting good health among the inhabitants.

E. INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Inspections of Foods have been regularly made, and small quantities have been found to be diseased or of poor quality and have had to be condemned.

F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious cases reported during the year were as follows:-

Diphtheria 3, Erysipelas 6, Scarlet Fever 4, Measles 165, Whooping Cough 22, Pneumonia 20, Puerperal Pyrexia 1.

As will be noticed there was an epidemic of measles which occurred in March and April; it was of a mild type, but there was 1 death of a young baby. There were 3 cases of diphtheria compared with 10 last year; 2 of these cases were under 5 and had not been immunised nor had the adult case. Immunisation has continued throughout the year, and most of the children done were under school age. It is difficult to get the percentage done, but on figures of child population submitted by the Registrar General it is estimated that over 60% of children have been immunised.

In my opinion Immunisation against diphtheria is a big stride forward as regards children, as many cases of diphtheria are left with permanent ill effects, and of course the mortality rate used to be high. Only 2 cases were sent to the City Isolation Hospital during the year, 1 being diphtheria and 1 scarlet fever.

TABLE SHEWING AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	Under 1.	1-2.	2-3.	3-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65+
Measles.	16.	12.	17.	42.	63.	9.	5.	1.				
Whooping Cough.	3.	2.		5.	9.	3.						
Diphtheria.		1.		1.				1.				
Scarlet Fever.				1.			1.	1.		1.		
Erysipelas.										1.	3.	2.
Pneumonia.	1.	1.	2.	3.	1.	1.	1.			1.	6.	3.
Puerperal Pyrexia.							1.					

Tuberculosis:- Only 1 case was notified, this being a case of the respiratory type. There were 2 deaths of Respiratory type, and 1 of Spinal Tuberculosis.

Venereal Disease:- There has been no increase of this complaint. Any such cases can get treatment at the Clinic in Plymouth.

I should like to express my gratitude to Mr. Harris and his Staff for their help during the year, and also to welcome Mr. Drabble who has already shewn his ability and efficiency.

Your obedient Servant,

H. G. ROBINSON,

M.O.H.



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CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE INCIDENCE.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	M.	F.	Under 1.	1-2.	2-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65-75.	75 & over.
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	1.	1.					1.	1.				1.	
Other Tuberculosis.	1.	1.											
Syphilitic Disease.	5.	6.								1.	4.		2.
Influenza.		1.	1.							1.			
Measles.		1.											
Cancer of Uterus.		1.	1.							1.			1.
Cancer of the Stomach.		1.											1.
Cancer of Breast.		4.							2.			1.	
Cancer of other sites.	4.												
Diabetes.		2.											1.
Intra Cranial Vascular Disease.	4.	8.											8.
Heart Disease.	12.	16.											13.
Other Circulatory Disease.	1.	2.											2.
Bronchitis.	3.	1.	2.										2.
Pneumonia.	2.	1.	1.										1.
Other Respiratory Disease.		1.											1.
Ulcer of Stomach.	1.												
Appendicitis.		1.								1.			
Other Digestive Disease.		2.										1.	
Nephritis.		2.										1.	
Maternal Causes.		1.											
Premature Birth.		1.	1.										
Congenital Debility.	3.	1.	4.										
Violent Causes.	2.						1.						
All other causes.	7.	8.							1.		2.	3.	9.
	46.	62.	9.				2.	1.	4.	5.	20.	25.	42.

